

**March 2008**  
**NORTHERN COMMAND**

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*DPS/Highway Patrol Division*  
**Major Tony Almaraz**

## Overview

During the month of March 2008, the Northern Command showed a total decrease in crashes and increase in activity. Both are positive signs that the area troopers are being pro-active in their enforcement and that directive enforcement assignments are measuring some degree of effectiveness. Certainly, it is too early in the year to predict any effect. Both dispatch and administrative support have also experienced increases in services to the public and all DPS officers using their services.

Commercial enforcement showed positive gains as well and continues to maintain its goals set at the CSVP. Both federal and state requirements are on target with several check sites planned for the month of April and into the spring months.

Currently, there are plans to utilize the Reno motors with the WASP program out of the CTM area. The desire is to increase target areas of high crash zones, pedestrian cross walks, speed and DUI. This process has taken some time due to the fact that most of the motors had to be placed within the shift because of manpower shortages. As of this date, there have been increases in staffing that will hopefully facilitate this program and get the motor squad back into the role they should be operating within.

As for the overall morale within the command, there is still and understandably so, a noticeable sadness from the loss of Trooper Kara Kelly. Daily though, there are positive signs that the staff is accepting the loss and trying to move on. While Kara will never be forgotten, we all know that she would have wanted us to keep doing what we do best and what she did best; and that is making the highways safe and protecting the citizens. Nonetheless, the command staff and first line supervisors are doing a good job in keeping in touch with the troopers and staff to ensure their mental well being is looked after.

Next month we will begin our contingency plans for the summer operations and activities. The desire is to get a upper hand on some of these operations an work on the fiscal impacts while incorporating the best tactical approach to enhancing safety and enforcement.

As always, the men and women of the Northern Command remain committed to keeping the citizens and visitors of this state safe.

### *Content:*

**Crash Statistics**

**Field Enforcement Statistics**

**Traffic Operations**

*Reno Urban*

*Carson/Tahoe/Minden*

*Fernley/Fallon*

*Hawthorne*

*Tonopah*

**Commercial Operations**

**Special Investigations**

**Criminal Enforcement**

**Air Operations**

**Administrative Services**

*Front Office*

**NORTHERN COMMAND**

**NORTHERN COMMAND CRASH STATISTICS OVERVIEW**

0	March-08	March-07	% Change	February-08	% Change
Total Crashes	265	339	-21.8%	318	-16.7%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	187	220	-15.0%	315	-40.6%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	75	118	-36.4%	91	-17.6%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3	1	200.0%	2	50.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	21	17	23.5%	18	16.7%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	3	1	200.0%	0	300.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1	1	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1	0	100.0%	2	-50.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1	0	100.0%	0	100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	14	24	-41.7%	16	-12.5%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	9	18	-50.0%	10	-10.0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	5	6	-16.7%	5	0.0%
Fatal Crashes Involving Commercial Vehicles	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%

## NORTHERN COMMAND FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	March-08		March-07	% Change		February-08	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	21		17	23.5%		18	16.7%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	109		144	-24.3%		92	18.5%
Other Arrests	656		718	-8.6%		417	57.3%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	253		311	-18.6%		187	35.3%
Speed violations	2797		3286	-14.9%		1907	46.7%
Hazardous moving violations	683		900	-24.1%		622	9.8%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	411		498	-17.5%		327	25.7%
Total violations [above violations included]	6692		7839	-14.6%		4897	36.7%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violatons - citations/arrests	14		9	55.6%		14	0.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	12		17	-29.4%		5	140.0%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	613		596	2.9%		463	32.4%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	238		234	1.7%		131	81.7%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1567		1812	-13.5%		1239	26.5%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	48		78	-38.5%		27	77.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	59		75	-21.3%		85	-30.6%
Total school buses inspected	320		345	-7.2%		136	135.3%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	35		34	2.9%		41	-14.6%
Total trucks weighed	1530		1076	42.2%		513	198.2%
Total overweight citations	16		17	-5.9%		7	128.6%
Total dyed fuel inspections	343		313	9.6%		234	46.6%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		4	-400.0%		0	0.0%

**ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	March 2008		March 2007	% Change		February 2008	% Change
<b>COMMUNICATION CENTER</b>							
Radio Transmissions from Console	123497		117570	+0.48%		75551	+389%
CAD Incidents	15564		15363	+0.13%		9571	+386%
Telephone Calls						19639	
<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>							
Accident Reports Processed	374		373	+0.27%		407	-8.11%
Arrest Reports Processed	232		230	+0.90%		150	+54.67
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	15		19	-21.05%		12	+25.0%
Office Accident Reports Taken	9		10	-10.0%		8	+12.5%
Citations Processed	3933		2834	+38.78%		3271	+20.24
Vehicle Impound Releases	2		7	-71.42%		6	-66.67%
Visitors at Counter	67		-	-		94	-28.72%
Crash Reports Mailed Out	\$1,151.50		\$984.50	+16.96%		\$970.50	+18.65%
<b>COURT / WARRANT</b>							
Warrants Received	701		1043	-48.78		628	+11.62
Warrants Entered	112		499	-22.44		447	-25.05
Warrants Cleared	519		956	-54.28		614	-18.30
Warrants Validated	3070		1817	+59.18		1927	-62.76
Extradition / Transports	21		26	-23.80		26	-23.80
<b>EVIDENCE</b>							
New Cases Submitted	53		59	-10.17%		27	+93.30%
New Items Submitted	85		74	+14.87%		27	+25.93%
Items Disposed	331		9	+3577.78%		4	+8175%

**EVIDENCE**

- ✱ Parole and Probation submitted 10 new cases and had 34 new items submitted
- ✱ Division of Investigation responsible for 0 % of case submissions.
- ✱ State Fire Marshal was responsible for 0 % of case submissions.
- ✱ Attorney General's Office is responsible for 0 % of case submissions.

**CONTRACT SERVICES**

- ✿ (2) Two Contracts using 13 hours, billed in the amount of \$447.35

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Phone Activity	Press Releases	Media Interview/TV	PIO Meetings	Accident Response
510	6	14	0	7

Website E-Mail Traffic	E-Mail Responses	Public Relations Projects	News Articles Total	Proactive News Articles	Reactive News Articles
76	375	6	0	0	0

**Community service appearances:**

- Live traffic reports weekly throughout the month of March.

**Additional Appearances and Meetings:**

- Boy Scouts-Traffic Safety presentation to 30 Boy Scouts and their parents focusing on reducing motor vehicle accidents.
- Morocco Representatives-presentation to media representatives about traffic congestion, state laws, positive professional relations with our northern Nevada media.

**CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN**

During this month the Carson/Tahoe/Minden area had a 31% decrease in the number of crashes investigated. Additionally, there was a significant increase of 59% in enforcement this month compared to last month. The DUI crashes and arrests decrease slightly this month from last month. There are two (2) new Troopers assigned to this area that are currently in field training.

**RENO URBAN OPERATIONS**

The Reno area had a 34% decrease in crashes and 25% increase in enforcement violations this month. They had a slight increase in the number of DUI crashes however, had a decrease in commercial involved crashes. Speed and occupant restraint violations increased substantially this month. All three shifts will concentrate enforcement at high peak accident times and areas.

**FERNLEY/FALLON**

Fernley and Fallon experienced a decrease in crashes this month along with DUI arrests. There was an 18% increase in total enforcement this month compared to last month. The total field enforcement activity increased 18.9% compared to February's enforcement due to previous vacancies within the area. The Fernley/Fallon District staffing remains 94.7% of the authorized staffing levels due to a vacancy of administrative leave. Both Fernley and Lovelock recently filled two vacancies and are currently in the fourth week of field training.



**HAWTHORNE**

Hawthorne had a 33.3% increase in crashes this month. There were four (4) crashes related to drivers striking cows on the roadway, which contributed to the increase. There was a significant 54% increase of total violations compared to last month. There were no DUI crashes. Commercial vehicle inspections by traffic officers were up by six (6) this month compared to last month. This is a direct result of the direction this Command wants to go regarding rural traffic officers being trained to inspect Commercial vehicles. This area is allocated five (5) positions however, are currently working with four (4). Both Hawthorne and Tonopah Districts used an OTS grant to work with the increase traffic traveling through their areas during the NASCAR race held in Las Vegas. This grant allowed Hawthorne to increase violations for DUI's, occupant restraints, speeding, and eight-teen (18) other traffic related violations. Currently Hawthorne has a large construction zone located south of Hawthorne and is expected to last thru the end of summer.

**TONOPAH**

This District had an increase of 14.9% in total violations although they have one (1) Trooper vacancy. There was a decrease from this time last year because of the staffing decrease with Beatty being part of the Southern Command. There were thirty (30) level II and III commercial inspections performed by traffic officers. This increase in commercial enforcement is a direct result in having rural officers training in commercial. Tonopah experienced a 428.6% increase in overtime due to two (2) wide load escorts.

The District investigated six (6) crashes, two (2) of which occurred within the Beatty District. This is a decrease of 33% compared to last year and a 100% increase of last month. Removing the two (2) Beatty crashes, the District had another unusually low crash rate for the month of March. All crashes occurred during scheduled shifts.

**SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE TEAM (SIRT)**

The SIRT team handled three (3) fatals during this month and assisted with the investigation of two (2) serious injury accidents. The first two (2) fatals occurred in Carson City and were not prosecution cases. The third fatal occurred in Washoe County and was a prosecution case. This investigation detail is currently managing four (4) cases.

**COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

Currently, the commercial enforcement section has 22 assigned position-control numbers. This month, the commercial section picked up an additional vacant position. At the end of March, there were four (4) vacant Trooper positions. Along with these vacant positions, the section had one (1) Trooper on FMLA and one (1) Trooper assigned to assist the Northern Command Public Information Officer (PIO) for the month.

Along with the traffic control assist, these officers handled four (4) property damage crashed and three (3) injury crashes, of which none were involving a commercial motor vehicle. The section also assisted the traffic operations section on fourteen (14) other crashes, three (3) of those crashes involved commercial motor vehicles.

March is the six month of the 2007-2008 Federal Fiscal Year and the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fiscal quarter. In the major categories of enforcement, such as inspections, enforcement stops, and weight enforcements on the interstate and secondary roadways, the section is still ahead of the 2007-2008 goals and achievements set forth in the 2008 CVSP.

The Federal Highway Administration finally approved the 2007-2008 C.V.S.P. The Northern Command Commercial Section will participate in its four (4) S.T.E.P. trips to the Southern Command area. The next trip is scheduled for April 2008.

This month Commercial enforcement officers attended a Motor Coach class in Las Vegas. This class will assist in obtaining our required fiscal goal, set by the 2007-2008 CVSP, for terminal commercial bus inspections. These Troopers will be inspecting these buses to aid our personnel who will be participating with the State Challenge Competition, which will be held near the end of May 2008 in Reno.

### **INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM (ICE)**

March had a good amount of interdiction activity considering the unusually high amount of non-interdiction activity and annual leave used. SIRT handled one property damage crash this month. Their field enforcement activity included traffic stops which led to multiple charges and arrests. One traffic stop resulted in a seizure of 1,133 grams (2.52 lbs) of Methamphetamine and multiple State drug charges on two subjects. The Methamphetamine was located in the air filter housing. Another traffic stop resulted in the seizure of 4,258 grams (9.5 lbs) of Marijuana and several local charges on two subjects. The Marijuana was a suicide load located in the trunk of the vehicle. Several other traffic stops resulted in a Cocaine seizure totaling 71 grams (2.53 oz) located in the air filter housing, a safekeeping of approximately \$55,000 in gold jewelry that was located in the air filter housing wrapped in duct tape and plastic and other traffic stops which resulted in a total of 116 grams (4.14 oz) of Marijuana.

Currently the ICE Team is staffed with two (2) Officers and one (1) Sergeant. Vacancies exist for positions from the Division of Investigation and the Parole and Probation Division. Interagency staffing was increased this month, with the Washoe County Sheriffs Office giving overtime shifts to their K-9 units for dedicated time with the ICE Team. As always the Reno Police Department has been very quick to respond with their k-9's when requested.

### **FLIGHT OPERATIONS**

The Northern Command aircraft made 22 flights during the month of March for a total of 58.5 hours. There were five (5) in-state prisoner transports as well as two (2) out-of -state extraditions; one (1) from Columbia, CA. to Reno and one (1) from Calaveras Co., CA. to Minden. Flight Operations conducted eight (8) speed enforcement missions. The enforcement breakdown is as follows:

<b>Type of Violation</b>	<b>Enforcement Actions</b>
Speed	300
Hazardous Moving	2
Non-Hazardous	44
Seat Belt	1

# Highway Patrol Division

## Northern Command

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### **Major Tony Almaraz**

*Deputy Chief*

### **Captain Dennis Oborn**

*Administrative Services Bureau/Traffic Operations*

### **Lieutenant Gina M Johnson**

*Administrative Services Bureau*

### **Lieutenant Roger Vind**

*Fernley/Fallon Rural Traffic Operations*

### **Lieutenant Scott Swain**

*Reno Urban Traffic Operations*

### **Lieutenant John Stewart**

*Commercial Operations/SIRT*

### **Lieutenant Kevin Bailey**

*Carson City/Minden/Tahoe Rural Traffic Operations/ICE*

